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German Democratic Republic

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ELIMINATION OF PRIVATE HAND TRADES IN THE GDR (1 p; German; [REDACTED])

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This document is a typewritten report on the virtual elimination of private hand trades in Land Brandenburg, as the result of the implementation of the new Law for the Promotion of Hand Trades in the German Democratic Republic.

Under this law, the following basic trade cooperatives are to be set up: 1) Millers and bakers; 2) textile crafts; 3) leather crafts; 4) wood crafts; 5) clothing; 6) miscellaneous services; 7) building and kindred trades; 8) metal crafts and trades.

These cooperatives will control the procurement and distribution of materials, so that all hand trades/ workers or enterprises will be forced to work as contractors.

The law has met considerable resistance on the part of the hand trades. The bakers of Potsdam, Luckenwald, and Teltow have refused to sign contracts, since the fees for such contracts are excessive for individuals. They could at best be met by enterprises employing 8 or more persons. In Prenzlau, 30 out of 44 bakeries were forced to close. Mill owners have become mere wage earners. They are forced to make the following payments to the State:

Flour (% of extraction content)	Eastmarks (per 1,000 kg)
78	809.50
94	826.70
96	831.25
98½	838.56
99 (Type 1,700)	840.-

The miller's own share is a mere 3.20 Eastmarks per 100 kg.

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